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OUR FRIEND THE HORSE

How It Looks.

The exterior of this rather unusual exhibit represents the end of a horse barn. In the opening which corresponds to the haymow door is a screen upon which is shown a continuous motion picture entitled "The Horse and Man" or the horse in motion.

The different classes of horses, such as farm work horses, roadsters, police and cavalry horses, hunters, racehorses, etc., are shown in motion in their natural gait and also in "slow" motion which is a very interesting and instructive feature of the exhibit.

Fastened to the side of the barn is a placard giving interesting statistical data on the horse and mule situation in the United States.

What It Tells.

A feature of this exhibit is the Department's new horse film entitled "The Horse and Man" shown in miniature size with a continuous motion picture exhibit. This film delves into history and shows how the horse has been the constant ally of man in agriculture, commerce, war and play.

Another portion of this exhibit goes into the horse and mule situation in some detail showing the figures taken from the agricultural census of 1925 and other information gathered by the Department. A casual study of these data shows that a surprising proportion of the country's work stock is of advanced age and that there are insufficient replacements coming on in the form of young stock. It would require more than 27 years to produce the present number of horses

and mules on farms at the alarmingly slow rate of increase shown by these figures. Since the average life of a horse or mule is about 15 years it is evident that the production rate must be nearly doubled to maintain present numbers. The situation will be serious by the year 1930 unless production is speeded up.

One mid-western State which made a survey of its horse situation through the county agents of 39 of its counties learned that 59% of its horses were past 12 years old, and more than 1/3 of them past 15 years old. A farm study in the same State showed that only 20% of the horses were under 7 years of age which is the time in a horse's life when he has reached his best working ability and at which depreciation sets in. A report of this State's survey points out significantly that if their situation is typical of the farm work stock situation throughout the nation that greatly reduced efficiency in farm power and higher costs of crop production are just around the corner.

A table lists the various States with the present horse population of each, the 1924 foals, the number of foals which should have been born in each State to maintain the present horse population, as well as the percentage of increase necessary to maintain present numbers. This record shows that there are but 5 States of the 48, and they are all western States with relatively small horse populations, in which a normal rate of increase in work stock is going on. Some States apparently must increase the rate of production of young stock some 8 or 10 times to do their share towards avoiding the impending shortage.

Where to Get Information.

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 803 Horse Breeding Suggestions for farmers.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1341 Mule Production.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 619 Breeds of Draft Horses

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1030 Feeding Horses.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 952 Breeds of Light Horses.